

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1218

Introduced by Assembly Member Wyland

February 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 52720 of the Education Code, relating to patriotic exercises.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1218, as introduced, Wyland. The William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial Act.

Existing law requires each public school to conduct daily patriotic exercises. Existing law provides that this requirement may be satisfied through reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

This bill, the William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial Act, would require that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America be recited each day during the school year at each elementary and secondary school. The bill would declare that a pupil or school employee who does not wish to participate in the recitation may remain silent and seated in the classroom during the exercise.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
- 2 William J. "Pete" Knight Memorial Act.
- 3 SEC. 2. Section 52720 of the Education Code is amended to
- 4 read:

1 52720. (a) ~~In every~~ *each* public elementary school each day
2 during the school year at the beginning of the first regularly
3 scheduled class or activity period at which the majority of the
4 pupils of the school normally begin the schoolday, there shall be
5 conducted appropriate patriotic exercises. ~~The giving of Each~~
6 *pupil shall recite* the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the
7 United States of America ~~shall satisfy the requirements of this~~
8 ~~section~~ *as part of the patriotic exercises. A pupil or school*
9 *employee who does not wish to participate in the recitation may*
10 *remain silent and seated in the classroom during the exercise. A*
11 *pupil or school employee shall not be subjected to harassment,*
12 *discipline, retaliation, or ostracism for not participating in the*
13 *recitation.*

14 (b) ~~In every~~ *each* public secondary school *each day during the*
15 *school year at the beginning of the first regularly scheduled class*
16 *or activity period at which the majority of the pupils of the school*
17 *normally begin the schoolday, there shall be conducted* ~~daily~~
18 *appropriate patriotic exercises. The giving of Each Pupil shall*
19 *recite* the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of
20 America ~~shall satisfy such requirement~~ *as part of the patriotic*
21 *exercises. Such A pupil or school employee who does not wish to*
22 *participate in the recitation may remain silent and seated in the*
23 *classroom during the exercise. A pupil or school employee shall*
24 *not be subjected to harassment, discipline, retaliation, or*
25 *ostracism for not participating in the recitation.*

26 *These patriotic exercises for and any others that a secondary*
27 ~~schools~~ *school chooses to conduct shall be conducted in*
28 *accordance with the regulations which that shall be adopted by*
29 *the governing board of the district maintaining the secondary*
30 *school.*